

Wheat Road & Route 40 Ground Water Contamination

Wheat Road & Route 40 Buena Borough & Buena Vista Township

Atlantic County

BLOCK: Various **LOT:** Various

Community Relations Coordinator: Amanda Coombs (609) 341-3118

SITE DESCRIPTION/RESOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

Sampling conducted by the Atlantic County Health Department in 1997 identified several private potable wells in this area that were contaminated with mercury at levels exceeding the New Jersey Drinking Water Standard for this metal. NJDEP's Remedial Response Element subsequently identified 19 additional wells that were contaminated with volatile organic compounds and/or mercury at levels exceeding Drinking Water Standards; however, three of these wells were too distant from the others to include in the Currently Known Extent (CKE) of the potable well contamination. Point-of-Entry Treatment (POET) systems were installed on the wells with funds provided by NJDEP to supply potable water for the residents. In 1999, the Remedial Response Element completed a water supply alternatives analysis that concluded the most cost-effective long-term remedy was the continued use of POET systems at the affected homes. However, Buena Vista Township and Buena Borough elected to extend public water lines to the properties in the CKE instead. NJDEP agreed to provide the Township and Borough with funds equal to the cost of monitoring and maintaining the POET systems for 20 years to help pay for the water lines. Installation of the water lines began in 2002 and is scheduled to be completed in 2003. Additional investigative work is planned to identify possible sources of the ground water contamination at this site.